

## READING: A SURVIVAL SKILL IN THE MODERN JUNGLE

by:

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In an era wherein reading is no longer a privilege and has become a survival skill, it is a must to learn or acquire it. However, in many instances, particularly during the pandemic Distance Learning Modalities are employed to ensure the continuity of education, and learners' reading skills are so underdeveloped.

There are two major factors that affect the development of learners' reading skills - their view of reading as a task; and their association of reading with rigid classroom structures (Orencia, 2006), both are greatly concerned with their attitude and motivation to read.

Practice makes perfect. Learners' motivation and attitude towards reading greatly affect the development of the necessary reading skills which are prerequisites to reading comprehension. Despite the reading opportunities all around them and all the classroom instruction they receive, many young learners fail to develop the necessary reading skills they need for their level.

In a study conducted by Leppänen et. al. (2011), it was observed that first graders do not benefit from systematic reading instructions as much as learners with less developed reading skills. In line with their findings, teachers must tap more into the attitude and motivation of learners rather than the systematic reading instructions. It is proof of how the subjective faculty of learners greatly affects their drive to practice and in the process, develop the necessary reading skills such as comprehension skills.

Moreover, setting the proper mood by means of a classroom set up conducive to learning contributes to learners' reading development (Akyol, et. al., 2017). It is the

teachers' responsibility to make the learner feel a sense of belonging regardless of the diversity inside the classroom. No one should feel left behind. In order for this to happen, the classroom setup must be engaging, and relevant to the learners' development. The teacher must provide learners with reading opportunities inside the classroom without making them feel that it is a task they must accomplish. It is very important that the teacher taps into the learners' affective domains and make them feel that reading and learning other skills inside the classroom is leisurely and fun. Providing them with an appropriate reading environment goes a long way together with suitable enrichment activities.

Reading is for all. For this country to flourish, it must be a home for generations who can read and understand what they read. This way, they can cope with the fast-paced changing world. They can survive, and even be successful.

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